



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

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July 28, 2010

Dear Tribal Government Leader:

I am writing to initiate a formal Tribal Consultation on the Roles of First Things First in the Arizona Early Childhood System. First Things First is a voter approved initiative that was established to help provide greater opportunities for all children five and under in Arizona to grow up healthy and ready to succeed. This initiative also empowers Arizona's Federally Recognized Tribes to decide how you want to participate in the regional structure of First Things First.

The Arizona Early Childhood Task Force [www.azftf.gov/taskforce](http://www.azftf.gov/taskforce) was appointed by the Board of First Things First in January 2010. The Task Force members were charged with establishing the vision for our state's early childhood development and health system and guiding First Things First in the implementation of this comprehensive system for the kids of Arizona. The Task Force has reached the critical point of making their recommendations for the role that First Things First should play in the Arizona Early Childhood System. The Task Force values your input and invites you, as an Arizona Tribal Government Leader to engage in a direct dialogue with First Things First on this topic.

In recognition of the unique government-to-government relationship that exists among Arizona Tribes, the Federal Government and State Governments, the Task Force is committed to seeking input from Tribal Government Leaders through a Tribal Consultation process. In preparation for the Consultation session, I have enclosed a copy of the draft Arizona Childhood Model System, which outlines the 20 potential roles for First Things First, identified by the Task Force.

This Consultation session will be guided by the First Things First Tribal Consultation Policy and will consist of one full-day forum. This session will be held on August 17, 2010 at the Hilton Garden Inn Phoenix Midtown Hotel, 4000 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85012, Phone (602) 279-9811. I am pleased to share with you that the agenda for this event will include an overview of First Things First, grants, and services that we provide for children ages birth through five and their families, in partnership with Arizona Tribes. It is my sincere hope that this information will be helpful to Tribal Government Leaders and others who want a comprehensive introduction to First Things First.

Letter to Tribal Government Leaders re: Tribal Consultation

July 28, 2010

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As this inaugural Consultation session draws near, First Things First is committed to seeking the input and recommendations of Tribal Government Leaders throughout the planning process. To this end, a draft agenda is enclosed for your comments and recommendations. First Things First's goal is to include as many Tribal Leaders and Representatives as possible at this Consultation. First Things First will also accept written testimony from Tribal Governments who are unable to attend the Consultation. Written comments may be submitted by regular mail, e-mail or facsimile **by Friday, August 20, 2010**, to:

Arizona First Things First  
4000 North Central Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Phoenix, Arizona 85012  
Attention: Beverly Russell, Tribal Liaison  
Fax: 602-274-6351  
E-mail: brussell@azftf.gov

First Things First recognizes that your Tribe may decide to authorize an individual who is not a Tribal Government Leader to offer testimony or make remarks on your behalf at the Consultation. If your Tribe elects to designate someone as its official representative, we respectfully request that the individual who will be presenting information on behalf of your Tribe be prepared to submit a letter from you, on official letterhead which confirms their status as the official representative of your Tribe.

To confirm your attendance, please fill out and return the enclosed registration form by **Friday, August 13, 2010**. To submit feedback on the agenda and/or written remarks, please contact Beverly Russell, Tribal Liaison at the contact information listed above.

On behalf of First Things First - the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board, I am honored to invite you to the First Things First's inaugural government-to-government Consultation on the Arizona Early Childhood System. I look forward to seeing you in Phoenix on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,



Steven W. Lynn  
First Things First Board Chair

Enclosures: Consultation Registration Form  
Draft Agenda  
Tribal Consultation Guidance  
Draft Arizona Early Childhood Model System